



Marion County Chamber of Commerce, Columbia, Mississippi 39429
 Phone 601-736-6385 • Fax 601-736-6592

January 27, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Inquiry- WT Docket No. 02381

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We received a copy of the FCC's Notice of Inquiry with respect to issues relating to the provision of terrestrial wireless services to rural areas. On behalf of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to let you know of the necessity of reliable wireless telecommunications services throughout the rural areas by the members of our Chamber here in Columbia, Mississippi.

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce has over 300 members, which represent a radius of approximately fifty miles. We strongly feel that Marion County will see significant growth within the next five years. In order to attract economic development to our area, we must see to it that our region has the necessary infrastructure to support a vibrant and growing business climate.

In recent years, all of our members have come to greatly appreciate the critical role wireless services play in the delivery of business communications throughout our community, but especially in the rural portions of Marion County. In fact, our primary concern is how we can achieve even better wireless connections throughout all of our rural areas and to all our rural customers we serve.

Support of wireless services from the Universal Service Support Fund will promote improvements to wireless infrastructure and better availability of wireless service in our rural areas. The wireless carriers that now serve or may potentially serve our community are just now getting the opportunity to realize benefits from the USF for their service improvements. On behalf of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, I strongly urge the FCC to make sure that substantial support from the USF remains available to our

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wireless carriers to help them fulfill the **goal** of providing service throughout our rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (601)736-6385.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Burton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Burton
Manager